REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-6 and 46-58 are now pending, including new Claims 48-58.

A new title has been provided as required by the Examiner.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Prus et al., U.S. 2005/0144651 (Prus). Claims 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zigmond et al., U.S. 6,698,020 (Zigmond). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prus in view of Hanai et al., U.S. 2005/0160455 (Hanai). Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks et al., U.S. 5,990,927 (Hendricks) in view of Swix et al., U.S. 2004/0163101 (Swix). Each of these rejections has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the rejected claims. The Applicants make no admission as to the propriety of the rejections.

Claims 46-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bisdikian et al., U.S. 6,047,317 (Bisdikian). The Applicants traverse as follows.

Bisdikian discloses a video presentation system and method, including a set-top box that serves as a receiver of a plurality of digital data segments (image frames) that are cyclically transmitted. The set-top box is provided with sufficient memory to buffer a certain number of the higher priority digital data segments in a series of the digital data segments. Bisdikian's buffering scheme is an anticipatory caching procedure to secure sufficient buffer memory space when there is an insufficient buffer capacity for the amount of data being received. Bisdikian, however, neither discloses nor suggests the claimed processing unit in the storage unit for securing a priority memory area that is usable by priority by a provider or a sender of the data, with respect to a user of the data receiving apparatus in the storage unit. Further, Bisdikian does not disclose that the area secured by the anticipatory caching procedure is different for each provider.

In addition, Bisdikian does not disclose the means for determining if a priority memory area usable by priority by a

data provider or a data sender with respect to a user of the data receiving apparatus has been secured in a storage area of the data receiving apparatus, as required by Claim 47. Memory 60, shown in Fig. 5 of Bisdikian, is a memory provided with capacity to store plural higher priority frames so as to render each thereof substantially immediately available upon user selection. Such does not seem to constitute the claimed determining means.

Indeed, the "priority" disclosed by Bisdikian is a priority assigned to each image frame, whereas the priority of Claims 46 and 47 pertains to a priority assigned to a priority or a sender of the data. Accordingly, Claims 46-47 are clearly different from Bisdikian.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Prus. The Applicants traverse as follows.

While Hendricks is cited as disclosing basic data receiving apparatus elements corresponding to Claim 1, the Office Action notes that Hendricks does not disclose a memory that is exclusive to that of only the provider or sender of data. Thus, Prus is cited as disclosing a system that has a

head-end that sends data to a data receiving apparatus or set-top receiver, including an exclusive memory array exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of data or software upgrading.

Respectfully, however, while Prus appears to disclose a method for setting up two areas for boot-loading and a program, and restricting write in the boot-loading area, Prus restricts access to all of the data providers, and does not provide permission for a specified data provider to write to a specified area. Thus, the combination of Hendricks and Prus does not suggest the claimed processing unit for securing an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data in the storage unit.

The difference is important because the capacity of the memory can be utilized more efficiently and effectively according to the claimed invention. According to the invention, every time a user subscribes to or cancels a service, the exclusive memory is secured or deleted accordingly, and every provider can use only the territory made exclusively usable by that provider. Prus does not

suggest this feature of the invention, whether taken individually or in combination with Hendricks.

Claim 2 was apparently also rejected over the combination of Hendricks and Prus, but Claim 2 inherits the patentable features of Claim 1, and thus is also patentable.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Prus and Hanai. Hanai is cited as disclosing a processing unit or record manager that displays an unused memory capacity or available capacity. However, in combination with the limitations of Claims 1 and 2 from which it is derived, Claim 3 is patentably distinguishable from Hendricks in view of Prus and Hanai, because none of these references discloses the claimed processing unit for securing an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of data in the storage unit.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Prus and Fell, U.S. 6,674,994 (Fell). Fell, however, also does not disclose the claimed processing unit for securing an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of data in the

storage unit. Thus, the combination of Hendricks, Prus, and Fell fails to render obvious Claim 4.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Prus and Kawai et al., U.S. 6,792,245 (Kawai). Kawai, however, also fails to disclose the processing unit that secures an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data in the storage unit. Thus, Claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the combination of Hendricks, Prus, and Kawai.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Prus and Hofmann, U.S. 5,883,677 (Hofmann). Hofmann, however, also fails to disclose the claimed processing unit for securing an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of the data in the storage unit. Thus, the combination of Hendricks, Prus, and Hofmann fails to render obvious Claim 6.

New Claim 54, is directed to a data receiving method of receiving data sent via a broadcast wave or an electric communication line including a step of securing an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of

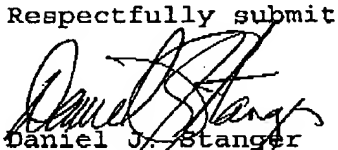
the data in a storage area, and a step of storing received data in the exclusive memory area when the received data is that which is desired by the provider or sender of the data to be stored in the exclusive memory area. Thus, Claim 54 is patentable for reasons similar to those advanced above with regard to Claim 1. Claim 55 is dependent upon Claim 54 and thus inherits its patentable features.

New independent Claim 56 recites a service center apparatus, including means for determining if an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of data has been secured in a storage unit of the data receiving apparatus. Thus, Claim 56 is patentable on grounds similar to those advanced above with respect to Claim 47.

New independent Claim 57 recites a data receiving apparatus managing method including a step of determining if an exclusive memory area exclusively usable by a provider or a sender of data has been secured in a storage unit of the data receiving apparatus. Thus, the method of Claim 57 is patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record. Dependent Claim 58 inherits the patentable features of Claim 57 and is thus patentable as well.

Each aspect of the Official Action having been addressed, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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